

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Publication JP 2003-181555 to Arai (“*Arai*”) in view of U.S. Patent 4,509,351 to Rolin et al. (“*Rolin*”).

Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Arai* in view of *Rolin* further in view of Japanese Publication JP 59-061529 to Okamoto et al. (“*Okamoto*”).

Claims 2 and 5 stand allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4, and 5. Claims 1-6 are pending.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Arai* in view of *Rolin*. Claims 3 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Arai* in view of *Rolin* further in view of *Okamoto*. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for at least the following reasons.

To facilitate allowance of the present application, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 4 to incorporate those features of dependent claims 2 and 5, respectively, that the Office Action indicated were allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that all rejections are moot.

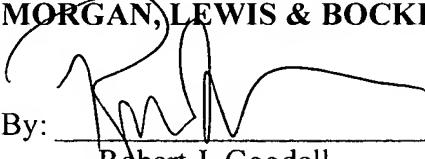
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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